

[21 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Safeguards at missile stores

2736. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an accident has taken place when top officials of his Ministry were being shown anti-tank missiles and one of them exploded in Bharat Dynamics Ltd. at Hyderabad in January, 2001.

(b) if so, whether this is the first accident in the 28 years history of BDL (A defence Sector Undertaking) and sole manufacturer of missiles in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to implement the safeguards at the missiles stores and the production units of Akash, Prithvi and Trishul Missiles?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A Committee consisting of representatives of the BDL, Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Director General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been appointed to prepare a comprehensive Safety Manual for BDL.

Financial irregularities by a retired LT. General

† 2737. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints regarding fraud and financial irregularities committed by a retired Lieutenant General P.N. Hoon through Kagginder Construction Company Pvt, Ltd. set up by him by misusing this former position in Indian Army;

(b) if so, the comprehensive details of such complaints;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) whether Government have also inquired into these complaints; and
- (d) if so, the outcome of the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have received a complaint alleging fraud and financial irregularities by retired Lt. Gen. P.N. Hoon through M/s Kalgindar Construction Company (P) Ltd.

- (c) No, Sir. The Officer retired several years ago and is no longer governed by the Army Act.
- (d) Does not arise.

T-90 Vs MBT Arjun

2738. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Russia have recently signed a deal for purchase of 310 frontline Russian T-90 battle tanks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including its special features *vis-a-vis* the indigenous MBT "Arjun", the time-frame fixed for its induction into the Indian Army; and
- (c) whether and to what extent this deal will affect the production of indigenous MBT "Arjun"?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A contract has been signed on 15.2.2001 for the import of 124 Fully Formed T-90S Tanks and 186 Tanks in Completely Knocked Down (CKD) or Semi Knocked Down (SKD) form along with Transfer of Technology for indigenous manufacture in India. T-90S Tank is a state of the art tank with 125 mm gun having missile firing capability and weighing 46.5 tons and a crew of 3 men. The MBT Arjun Tank has 120 mm gun without missile firing capability, weighing 58.5 tons and has a crew of 4 men. T-90 tanks are planned to be inducted into the Indian Army by early 2002.